- One expatriate Quality Expert of General Consultants has been demobilized.

The following preventive measures have been taken:—

- DMRC has undertaken a special drive to check all the cantilever piers so far constructed and their designs rechecked by M/s Shirish Patel and Associates, a well know Design Consultant. Based on their advice, necessary action has been taken by DMRC to ensure that all the cantilever piers are safe.

- DMRC has also decided to get all the designs checked in future by the General Consultants or by an outside Consultant. The Design Wing of DMRC has been substantially strengthened.

- A special drive was undertaken by DMRC in late July, 2009 for special training of the workers and supervisors of all the contractors working at DMRC sites. All the construction companies were directed to arrange a Crash training programme of minimum three days duration or equivalent 18 hours of training exposure to all their employees working at site including sub-contractor workers. More than 25,000 workers have been trained under this special drive.

- The Government has informed all the Metro authorities and concerned Chief Secretaries on 11.9.2009, where Metro rail projects are under construction, about the accident at DMRC's site on 12.7.2009 and has reiterated its advice to ensure that adequate preventive measures are put in place.

(c) The total number of labourers who have so far lost their lives while engaged in construction work by DMRC or its contractors is 101. The total compensation given to their next of kin as per available records is estimated at Rs. 4,32,15,219/- approximately.

Irrigation through surface and ground water

†874. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irrigation through canals has been reduced continuously during last five years and the use of underground water has increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage area of land being irrigated through surface water and underground water in the country; and

(d) the details of efforts being made to augment irrigation area in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. There has been continuous increase in the irrigation potential

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

canal and water distribution system created under major and medium irrigation projects and minor irrigation schemes utilizing surface water.

The created irrigation potential through major and medium projects and minor irrigation schemes utilizing surface water has increased from about 50.65 million hectares (Mha.) at end of Ninth Plan to about 56.66 Mha. at the end of Tenth Plan and the irrigation potential utilized has increased from about 42.45 Mha. at the end of Ninth Plan to about 46.42 Mha. at the end of Tenth Plan. Similarly, the created irrigation potential through ground water has also increased from 43.30 Mha. at the end of Ninth Plan to about 46.11 Mha. at the end of Tenth Plan and the irrigation potential utilized through ground water schemes during the same period has increased from 38.55 Mha. to 40.81 Mha. As per the Land Use Statistics for 2006-07 compiled by Ministry of Agriculture, the net irrigated area by wells and tubewells is 59% and through canals, tanks and other sources is 41%.

Water being a State subject, planning and implementation of water resources projects are undertaken by respective State Governments. Several schemes have been planned for implementation by the respective State Governments. Government of India provides central grants to State Governments under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme for early completion of the schemes. Ministry of Water Resources has also prepared National Perspective Plan for optimal utilization of the water resources particularly through diversion of surplus flood water to water deficient areas, National Perspective Plan envisages various links to divert surplus flood water to water deficient areas. Ministry of Water Resources has also launched a scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies under which assistance is provided to States.

Rules for allotting quarters in CSIR

875. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority of CSIR has specific allotment rules for allotting quarters to its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether the above rules are followed during the allotment of Directors Bungalow, CRRI colony, Maharani Bagh and CSIR Scientists Apartment, Maharani Bagh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) CSIR has its own residence allotment rules namely "CSIR (Residence Allotment) Rules, 1997" for allotting residential accommodation to its employees, as modified from time to time in keeping with instructions issued by the Government of India and approval of the Competent Authority. Details of these rules are available on the CSIR website ***www.csir.res.in***.